I have just returned from a seven-day visit to Athens where I had the opportunity of meeting Prime Minister Karamanlis and other key members of the Greek government. I regret to say that our celebrated Secretary of State succeeded in the course of a few weeks to accomplish what the pro-Communist propaganda had unsuccessfully tried for almost 25 years—to destroy the ties between Greece and the United States. Let us make no mistake. Greece's withdrawal from NATO's military structure is only a first step.

Washington has left Karamanlis no alternative. There is much more than newspaper evidence that certain branches of official Washington encouraged Br. Gen. Ioannides, then Greece's strongman, to engineer the overthrow of President Makarios who, in the eyes of our Secretary of State, was much too close to the Eastern bloc —a rather oversimplified view of the delicately-balanced and cautious policy followed by Makarios in his effort to preserve the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of his country in the face of well-known Turkish designs for the island's partition.

This writer, in a number of confidential reports to the State Department, following several fact-finding visits to Greece in the last eight years warned our officials of the necessity to press the military-backed government to restore democratic rule because otherwise our ties with the Greek people were in serious jeopardy. Now that these warnings have come to pass there is no reason to keep silent any longer. Confidential reports will serve no purpose.

Unless President Ford, in a bold reversal, terminates American support to Turkish aggression, he must be prepared to accept what is bound to follow. By allowing Turkey to grab Cyprus' most fertile lands, and push out of their homes thousands of Greek-Cypriots, the architects of our foreign policy have turned the Greek people from a traditional friend and ally to an embittered. outraged foe. Anti-Americanism in Greece today is no longer limited to the Left. It is universal, overwhelming, deep-felt, and fully justified. Dr. Kissinger is grievously mistaken if he thinks that partition of the island will provide the United States with safe military bases on Cyprus. The island will become the field of prolonged violence with uncompromising Greek-Cypriot guerrillas making life impossible for American personnel and the Turkish conquerors. Greece, of course, is virtually lost to the United States as an ally. To think that we can expect to maintain our bases or port facilities in Greece is the ultimate in self-deception. Greece may well turn to France and Western Europe before she turns to other directions but, whatever course she may eventually take, American influence in Greece will be miniscule for a long time to come. NATO's so called southern flank, of course, is now a thing of the past.

Karamanlis' rejection of President Ford's invitation is no grand stand play. Karamanlis is expressing accurately Greece's new-found spirit of self-respect and independence. If President Ford wants to salvage whatever can be salvaged, he must act. Words no longer can charge the course of events.

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